UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

**Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York**

Prepared by Central News

DH/1958
16 August 1995

## WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council exempts Rwandan Government from arms embargo imposed by resolution 918 for one year; maintains prohibition of arms sales to non-governmental forces for use in Rwanda.

* Evacuation of minorities from Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia continues; Croatian Government and Croatian Serbs build up forces in Sector East.

* Secretary-General condemns attempt by Armed Forces in Sao Tome and Principe to overthrow democratically-elected Government.

* Liberian faction leaders hold talks on national reconciliation in Abuja.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority sets up working group to review draft headquarters agreement.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to exempt the Rwandan Government from the arms embargo imposed by resolution 918 (1994) until 1 September 1996. It permitted the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to the Government through named points of entry on a list to be supplied by Kigali to the Secretary-General. The Council said the restrictions on the Government would terminate on 1 September 1996, unless the Secretary-General recommended otherwise. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 1011 (1995).

Meanwhile, the Council required all States to continue to prevent the sale or supply of arms to Rwanda -- other than to the Government -- or to persons in neighbouring States, if those arms were to be used within Rwanda. It said that no arms sold or supplied to the Government could be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any State neighbouring Rwanda, or any person not in the service of the Rwandan Government, either directly or indirectly.

The Council decided that States should notify the Committee established by resolution 918 (1994) of all exports of arms and related materiel to the Rwandan Government. The Government should mark and register and notify the Committee of

(more)

**For information media—not an official record**

all such imports, and the Committee should regularly report on notifications so received.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations as soon as possible on the establishment of a Commission to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in the Great Lakes region. It called on the Governments of Rwanda and neighbouring States to cooperate with the Commission's investigations. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report within one month on his efforts for the convening of a regional conference on security, stability and development, as well as for the convening of a regional meeting on problems facing the repatriation of refugees.

* * *

The evacuation of minorities from Bosnia's Banja Luka region continued today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Some 900 people were transported into Croatia on Monday, followed by 1,700 yesterday. Up to 1,700 people were expected to cross the border today. Most of the evacuees were Croats, although there were reports that Muslims were signing up with the Serb authorities for evacuation under considerable pressure and intimidation. Only 40,000 members of minority groups remain in the Banja Luka region, down from a pre-war total of 500,000. The Serb population is estimated at over 700,000.

Meanwhile, some 35,000 refugees from the northern Bihac pocket remained stranded in Croatia, the spokesman continued. The refugees are supporters of rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic who fled to Croatia after the Bosnian Government took control of the pocket. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today held talks with the Croatian Government amid reports the Government was moving to evacuate the refugees.

The spokesman noted a build-up of forces by the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs in and around the zone of separation in Sector East. He described the situation there as tense, but said a major military conflict was not expected. In another development, the Croatian Government was reported to be moving troops and equipment into the Dubrovnik area. The United Nations was concerned that the Government would launch an offensive to halt cross-border shelling by Serb forces in southern Bosnia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed shock on learning that the Armed Forces in Sao Tome and Principe had arrested President Trovoada, Prime Minister Graca and members of the Cabinet in an attempt to overthrow the country's first democratically-elected Government. Stressing that force could not be accepted as a means of resolving internal problems in a Member State, he appealed to the Armed Forces to uphold the Constitution and allow the President and his Government to immediately resume their democratic mandate.

(more)

* * *

Liberian faction leaders met today in Abuja, Nigeria, for talks on national reconciliation. In June, the Security Council warned that it would not extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) beyond 15 September without serious and substantial progress in the peace process. Resolution 1001 (1995) specifically urged the Liberian parties to install the Council of State; reestablish a comprehensive and effective cease-fire, disengage all forces; and create an agreed timetable and schedule for the implementation of all other aspects of the Agreements.

* * *

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has set up an ad hoc working group to review a draft headquarters agreement covering the rights and obligations of the Authority and the Jamaican Government. Jamaica is the seat of the Authority.

As it continued the final part of its first session in Kingston, the Assembly decided that the working group would also examine the final draft protocol on the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its staff. The two drafts will be the basis for negotiations between the Authority and Jamaica.

* *** *